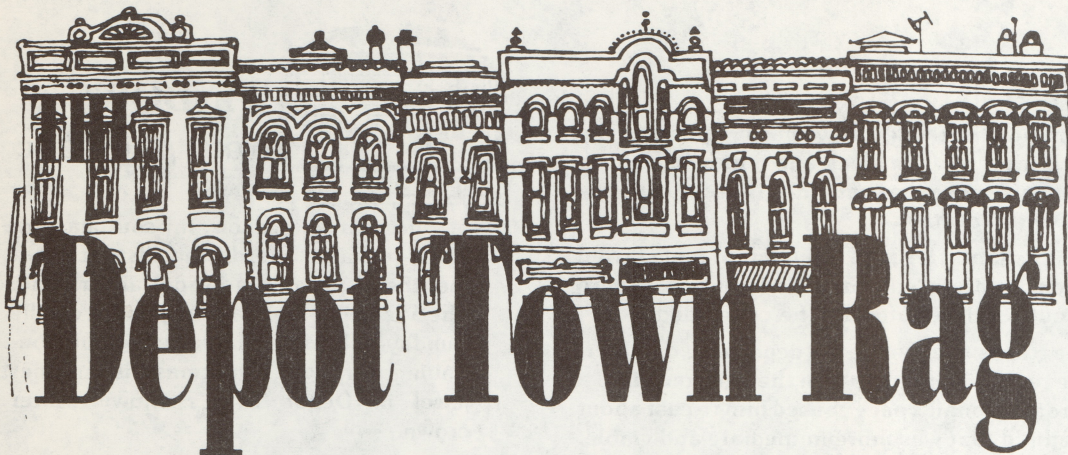




NOVEMBER 1984 MEETINGS

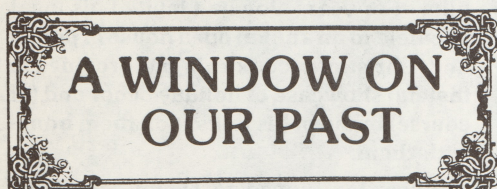
Foundation - November 8 - 8:00

Association - November 15 - 7:30

...all in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

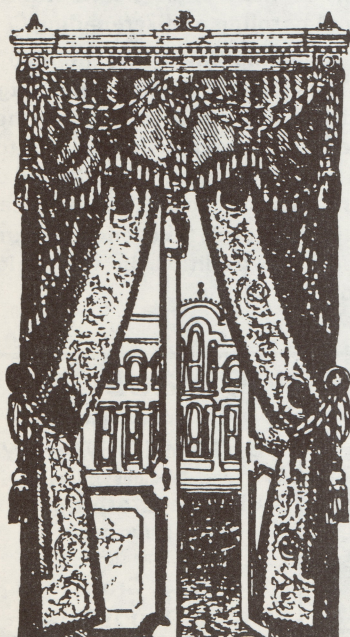


Depot towners love to brag about their favorite season in the block. Spring offers great excitement, new building or renovation projects and planting. Everyone loves summer with its flower beds, ice cream cones, bikes and tanning on the roof. Fall, of course, is the finale — in the bountiful Farmers' Market.

Winter, however, is given short shrift by many people. They even pronounce it incorrectly. "winner", they say, missing the "t", missing the fun and missing the point.

"WinTer" in Depot Town has become another exciting promotional opportunity for the neighborhood. The gambling Casino, initiated last year, was elegant, fun and profitable. The Winter Jazz Series, co-hosted by WEMU is a highlight

Continued overleaf...



VOLUNTEERISM REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Most of us can remember being "brought in" to the promotions of Depot Town at some time in our recent history. "Would you be able to help with publicity? Could you sell a few tickets? Can you help set up chairs, clean the Caboose, sweep up the Freight House, plant some flowers, run some children's games, judge the window displays...or maybe even be the chairperson: of the committee that guarantees some event will happen and serve to vitalize and humanize this commercial district?" You know the line. You've not only fallen for it, but you've used it on others, yourself.

It was a practical way to get "in" on what was going on and to take positive steps toward the improvement of this once-run-down railroad district. We've volunteered thousands of hours since DTA's organization, in 1976 and never bothered with thank-you notes or trophies for good works because we all knew that they would only be tokens of appreciation from still more volunteers like ourselves. Maybe, if we were big enough for a paid staff, they would take care of such amenities and we wouldn't have to pat ourselves on the back.

Still, most Depot Town jobs got done and the satisfaction was in the doing. The buildings, themselves, became the trophies and every helper could claim his or her own monument.

We've all been there, and we've all encouraged others to join in on the work/fun. We've never had to print those cutesy little complaints about hard work being done by so few, or those nasty poems begging guilt feelings from the few who don't help. And we're not starting now.

The following, however, is an example of volunteerism which cannot go unnoticed and we take the first column space in nearly ten years to pat one of our volunteers on the back.

Since many professionals are careful not to let their full-time work and their volunteerism conflict, we're both impressed and surprised at the total immersion of local architect Denis Schmeideke in the design of the New Cross Street Bridge. No one would dare ask the contractors or engineers to donate their services — and neither did we think to ask the architects of the area to give away their talents.

But Denis, long an observer of the Depot Town scene, asked if he could help.

No he's not a resident Depot Towner, he actually lives in one of those tiny pockets of Ypsilanti Township which surround the City: at the corner of Huron River Drive and Superior Road, in a sophisticated International-style contemporary house, a national prize-winning design from his own drawing board. Hardly the 1860's Italiante style

GUV'MINT JOB

Folks who sat in the indoor rain at Doug Dalton's recent auction will be happy to know that the roof replacement on the Freight House is complete, at long last. The contract included replacement of damaged wood and a new fascia board all the way around. (And that's a long way around! Astronauts can see the Freight House roof from outer space, you know.) City's next project is water lines to the Amish chicken concession. When was the last time you ate a real barnyard, bug-eating chicken?

JAZZ JOBS OPEN:

See Carolyn McKeever to let her know your willingness to serve in the following vacancies:

Bar - Rex Richie
Street Promotion - Sally Richie
Setting up chairs, stage, tables,
Security - Tom Dodd, Jerry Meadows
Ticket Sales -

Clean-up and closing -

FOOD CONCESSIONAIRES: Carolyn looks for your bid and performance bond. Here is an excellent opportunity to introduce new folks to your fine food service.

Continued from one

we're so accustomed to down here!

Denis and Lynn Dean and brown standard poodle, Deckle, have been regulars at the Saturday morning Farmers' Market since it moved to the block and it may have been the sight of the forlorn MCRR depot across the tracks that caught this architect's eye and drew him to deeper development in Depot Town.

Denis became an active member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation and started catching up on all those building styles which his formal education had spurned. There was life before Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan after all, he concluded.

Next, he dragged a contractor across the tracks to examine the depot and, together, they found financiers, operators and all the rest of the team to turn the old wreck into a restaurant. Slowly. Very slowly. That project's snail's pace caused him to cast about the block for something else to do. Something that was more immediate and viable.

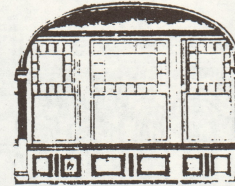
He, too, had a love affair with the "Old" Cross Street Bridge, and hoped the new design would relate, somehow, to the historic district surrounding it. Rather than simply serve on a committee which would make recommendations into a vacuum, Denis figured he could make the visual challenges of the project his own, by donating the necessary architectural services.

We recently saw that labor of love through the artists' own eyes (and slides) when he presented the bridge design to last month's meeting of all of Michigan historic District commissions held in Ypsilanti. They saw the bridge railing relates to window and arch openings on North Huron and in Depot Town. They saw an artist's sensitivity to the built environment, connecting today's high-tech state highway bridge to the surrounding historic district: an in-fill problem often ignored in much of the country. It remains as a model to other urban planners.

Denis' drawings became concrete reality as the actual building of the bridge continued. While that project neared its finale' Denis put the finishing touches on his photo-documentations of eighteen historic architectural styles found in Ypsilanti - from pre-Civil War to the 1840's and is ready to bring that show to anyone else who wants to quickly call beautiful old Ypsilanti their "home town", too.

With this bridge work done, Denis now turns his attention back to his Depot dream and to other new projects in an improving building economy.

So, when we all line up at the dedication of the New Bridge, (date to be announced) and applaud the gigantic efforts which made it a reality, Depot Towners will give great special attention and recognition to the one real volunteer in the group: the architect. Denis Schiedeke. Seems the best thing we can do for volunteers is to let them know we appreciate their contribution. Just say, Thanks, Denis. We appreciate your efforts."



WINDOWS...
from page one

of the music season in southeastern Michigan and affords the district eight months of prime-time radio advertising. The Victorian Holiday, beginning on the Sunday following Thanksgiving and continuing through Christmas, is another jewel in Depot Town's snowy winter crown.

Joe Wizauer, of HON'S FLOWERS AND FANCIES brought the tradition with him. For years, Joe had invited his loyal clientele to an annual open house of punch and Christmas cookies. He provided a tasteful showcase of holiday decor and (of course) many of his folks took them home with them.

When Joe moved to Depot Town, his clientele followed and so did the open houses. Joe suggested that his neighbors do the same with the mailing lists they keep and the Victorian Holiday tradition was born. Today, most shopkeepers look to Joe in early November to order evergreen roping and giant red bows(at cost) for their own business facades.

One of the loveliest attributes of all this is the annual neighborhood tour taken by hundreds of families just to inspect the thoughtful and traditional window displays which run the full length of the district. Cooperative shopkeepers call it a "contest", but virtually everyone wins a "prize" in one category or another.

Such outdoor winter activity affords many of the Depot Town locals to dress up in top hats, bustles, capes and great coats as they swoop down the always-clean sidewalks to hear or be heard through traditional caroling and serenading.

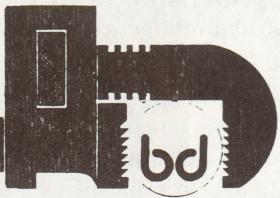
Folks spending their first holiday in Depot Town will find a whole neighborhood opening up to them. By next year, they'll be among the "old guard" too, and will be able to speak of the "good old days in Depot Town" with heavy authority. It doesn't take long to become a part of the tradition in this neighborhood.

and everything nice

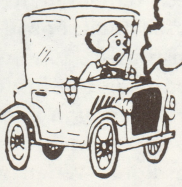


RECYCLED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
HANDCRAFTED TOYS & GIFTS

27 EAST CROSS


B & D RETAIL PLUMBING
and HEATING, INC.
Richard C. Laffin
310 N. River • 487-1510
Ypsilanti, MI 48197


Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI


**CITY
RADIATOR**
110 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
483-2248

Vintage Passion
Specializing in Unusual & Different
COSTUME JEWELRY
Featuring fabulous rhinestones
Vintage Clothing
"You've got to see it
to believe it!"
32 East Cross
Historic Depot Town

1985 DEPOT TOWN PRIORITIES:

Anyone who has followed the rebirth of Ypsilanti's Depot Town this last decade will admit that it's not typical of other small city run-down commercial districts. Others may have seen the infusion of Federal Funds, outside investors or corporate take-overs, but even those projects have not been so steadily optimistic nor continuously successful as the growth and development seen here.

No paid staff took over local, private responsibilities in our block. Such accomplishments were effected only by neighborly cooperation, continuous communication, high visibility and plenty of extra hours of hard work. Even that simplistic formula won't work, if there is not a plan. Hard work, alone, can be debilitating; but concerted energy in the right direction at the right time can move a group toward its goals.

The 1976 Depot Town Study viewed long-range goals. The DTA stops hustling for a few minutes each year and examines its shorter range (annual) objectives on the way to those long-range goals. It's not enough to just write them down, though. Next we have to act on them and continually monitor our progress in those areas.

At President Gary McKeever's first meeting, these were identified in order of importance. If you feel some enthusiasm for any one objective, you're obviously in the right place. Just let your neighbors know ... and you're on the agenda whenever you're ready. And you won't be alone. We are down here because this is exactly the kind of activity we want to be in. You're on the right track - in Depot Town.

1. IMPROVE PERCENTAGE OF MERCHANT PARTICIPATION. Although the Merchant's Committee has sponsored several accomplishments this year, the month-to-month momentum has been lost. A few merchants are distant and not at all involved in neighborhood promotion. Design programs which include them, let them know they are welcome and needed. Actively recruit new help and participation for promotional projects. Assess their needs and offer services to meet them.

482-0489 23 E. Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Now and Then
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Buy — Sell — Trade

IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

2. PRE-PLANNING PROMOTIONS FOR THE BLOCK. With a full promotional calendar for the next twelve months accent the lead-time necessary to accomplish these objectives. Part of each DTA meeting is for reports on progress in these areas. Plan your time and energy skillfully and you won't tire as easily.

(Also tied for Priority #2:)

DEVELOP A DISTRICT-WIDE PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE. Since the previous design was lost, Fetters and Dodd pledge to help others put together a general neighborhood promotional brochure for wide distribution. Accent a map, easy parking, the neighborhood style, and the many creative services, foods and entertainments in Depot Town.

3. DEVELOP AND PRESERVE PERFORMING ARTS CAPABILITIES. One of the spin-offs of our rebirth has been that we have become a center for drama and music, as well as architecture and the visual arts. Don't let that success squeeze us out of our own home. Develop a secure home base in the Freight House, on Frog Island, throughout the district and in the streets. Involvement with the City is vital, since we talked them into improving those facilities in the first place. The arts are not just promotional gimmicks, but are indicative of the very quality of life in the community. Nurture them.

4. BLIGHT CONTROL IN ALL ITS FORMS. Regular cleaning and painting and neighborhoodliness continue, but a few isolated people and projects present horrendous problems which cannot be ignored. Take direct action with necessary authorities to see that these not continue. Cooperation, the Neighborhood Watch, and being firm-but-friendly when necessary should pay off here. (Sound stange for The Rag to be reporting bad news? See the Golden Goose Award in this month's DTA minutes.)

5. IMPROVE SIGNAGE THROUGHOUT THE AREA HIGHLIGHTING DEPOT TOWN. Last year's signs at City entrances have been taken down. Signs to parking never appeared. The Interstate billboards are about to go up. Use our considerable treasury to get the job

done by professionals. Don't count on volunteer art teachers and the DPW to design a sign system.

6. CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF JAZZ PERFORMANCES. Live, top quality musical performances along with eight months of regular radio promotion are almost more than we ever hoped for, thanks to Jim Dulzo and Radio station WEMU. It's been good for both of us, with the series, the all-day event and the three-day competition, but don't take it for granted. It's profitable and it's fun. And it's an excellent and classy piece of public relations.

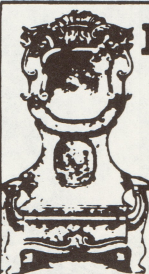
7. IMPROVE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC IN DEPOT TOWN. Bridge lines are coming, one-ways are always confusing. We have plenty of parking, but, just like Depot Town, it's hard to find. Make it easier for people to become Depot Towners on their first visit.

8. DEVELOP MORE MARKET PLAZA EVENTS FOR HERITAGE FESTIVAL. Jazz followed the Farmers' Market to Ypsilanti's biggest weekend, then it was more good, old-fashioned home town fun: The Quilt Show, the Toy and Train Exposition, the Mad River Stream Train Reunion at the Caboose, and old time movies. Build on an ethic that is fun, free, and authentic.

9. HAVE FUN WITH NORTH/SOUTH SNOW REMOVAL COMPETITION. Even with the cleanest sidewalks in Washtenaw County, a few sluggards exist. Create challenging competition between North and South sides of Cross Street. Humiliate River Street into following Jack Miller's good example. Be immaculate and have fun doing it.

10. ACCENT THE WALKWAY. Focus on the much-ignored, but pleasant and convenient walkway between the EAGLES' and JAMES MacDONALD'S ANTIQUES. It's a great entrance to the Farmers' Market, but it goes both ways. Great spot for street furniture and art, too.

11. DEVELOP A MORE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP. What can we say? There's always a job to be done. Spread the fun around. Involve new friends and don't burn out the old hands.



DEPOT EXCHANGE
ANTIQUES

54 E Cross St. (near tracks)
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich 48197

WE BUY, SELL & TRADE
482-1780

Furniture Stripping
Mention RAG ad & get 10% Discount

Jim MacDonald's
Antiques
Apple Annie's
Vintage Clothing

29 East Cross • 481-0555
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

Ypsi/Depot Town Consortium
c/o Red Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
Dear Ms. Rosen-Fine

Mrs. Doris Komblevitz, R.C.T.C. Summer Youth Program "Operation Pride" Director, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation as an employer in our summer project. "Operation Pride" provided approximately one hundred financially disadvantaged and/or handicapped youth, ages 14-21, from the Ypsilanti school district with extensive employability skill training, work experience, and "employment coaching".

The work experience and coaching you and other community employers provided for our students greatly enhanced our program and provided much valuable on-the-job experience to many students who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to learn and earn this summer.

Thank you again for your assistance. Your efforts helped to make this program a successful community project.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. James Hawkins, Superintendent
Ypsilanti Public Schools



VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSES SUNDAY, NOV. 25th

Hansen's

STANDARD PRINTING

"Historic Depot Town"

Ypsilanti 483-0339

D.T.A. 18 OCTOBER 1984

President Gary McKeever called the meeting to order in the Caboose at 7:30 P.M. with his fancy wooden steam train whistle. The minutes were read and approved. Treasurer Eric Ward reported receiving \$1000.00 from Civitan (to be split with WEMU), an enormous pile of pennies from Boomer Days, and a total of \$5984.13 in the General Fund.

JAZZ: Due to calendar and schedule conflicts, there will be only three concerts beginning in January and continuing on the 3rd Saturday of each month at \$21.00 for season tickets, \$7.00 at the door (if any are available.) Concerts will begin earlier and feature an extra performing artist for early arrivals. Specified food contracts will be let in and outside of the district, with performance bonding. Committee chairs needed include clean-up, set-up, ticket sales. Sally Richie, a merchant from Miller's Ice Cream Shop, volunteered to chair Street Promotions. \$211.00 was approved to purchase stage lighting. \$1500.00 approved for first concert starting costs. Still need to build new, longer legs for the stage.

MERCHANTS: Since the Merchants' Committee seems to be out of business, President McKeever suggested that business be conducted in regular DTA sessions until need proves otherwise. All concurred.

CABOOSE REPAIRS: No action taken on last month's proposal. Ask Tim Vachon for an estimate on necessary repairs.

RAG REPORT: Volunteerism will be featured this month with bridge Architect, Denis Schmiedeke's excellent example. Many did not know he donated his services. All are encouraged to draw their "slices" of Depot Town and submit them for publication.

FOUNDATION: Due to up-coming holidays, the November meeting will be on the 8th, December's on the 13th.

BY-LAWS: Review committee meets at Noon, Sunday, October 21 at M. Suczek's

KID ART: Professor Malarkey will hold art sessions for children at the October 21 Farmers Market/Crafts Fair to get ready for Halloween.

KIDS "HALLOWEEN PARTY": Wed. October 31st, 5:00 -7:30. Bonni Rosen/Fine is coordinating; games, fortune teller, Kidsart, EMU Theatre story tellers, live music, costume parade and stage show. Twenty-five merchants donated the necessary funds for this fine children's event.

SPECIAL EVENTS: line item was created in the budget to continue throughout the year.

VICTORIAN HOLIDAY: Joe Wizauer reported that most neighborhood open houses are scheduled for the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 25th. Green roping can be ordered from Hon's Flowers at Wholesale prices. December activities will include window decorating, a Christmas Tree, a Birds' tree, the Salvation Army. CBC Christmas Parade starts here Saturday, November 24, when Santa arrives in Ypsilanti. T. Dodd will investigate Carriage Rides. \$250.00 seed money approved. Planning committee meets at Hon's Wed, October 24, 7:30 P.M. to plan flyer, santa schedule, horse route, line up singers, etc.

APPLE CORPS: Special thanks to Marybelle, Alex, Ron and Jerry for hosting the Studel-making demonstrations at the Farmers' Market for Apple Harvest weekend.

PRIORITIES: After reviewing last year's priorities, the following were established in rank order for the coming year:

1. Merchant participation
2. Pre-planning
3. Promotional Brochure
4. Performing Arts Spaces
5. Blight Control
6. Signage in City
7. Jazz Tradition
8. Traffic Flow
9. Market Plaza Events
10. Snow Removal Competition
11. Walkway
12. More Active Membership

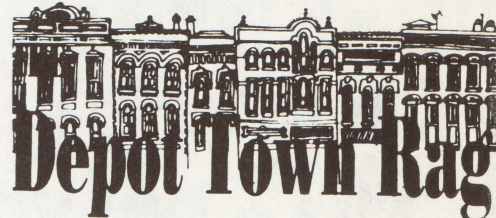
(see elaboration elsewhere in this issue.)

INSURANCE: Coverage needed for Halloween party.

BEST YET AWARD: to Bridge Architect, Denis Schmiedeke.

GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD: to anyone who hasn't been to a Depot Town meeting in the Caboose in the last year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 P.M.



A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

Gary McKeever, president

(DTA: The caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)

Annual dues:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Associate member | \$10 |
| Regular member | \$25 |
| Sustaining member | \$100 |



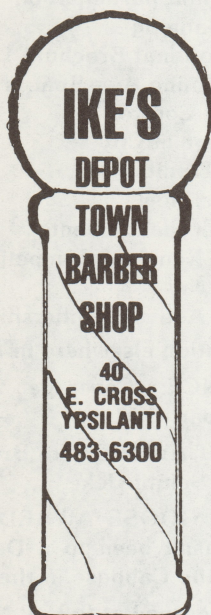
Miller's
SINCE 1896
ICE CREAM

Pints
Quarts
Half Gallons
Gallons

Malts
Shakes
Sodas
Cones
Sundaes

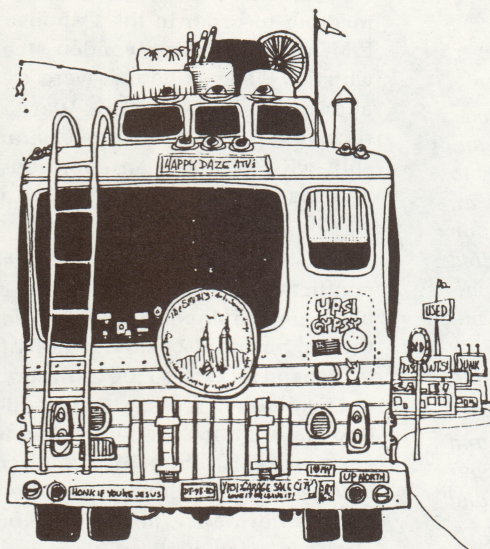
42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan
485-7546

"Have Ice Cream the old fashioned way."
Sit down to the creamiest
ice cream around served
in a real glass dish.



Grand Trunk Ltd.
Formerly Rosemary's
NEEDLE ARTS and
HANDCRAFTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICH. 48197
(313) 485-4994

SIDETRACK
GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES
Located in historic Depot Town
58 E. CROSS • YPSILANTI
483-1035



CREATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A second (hand) View

A quick look at some of the newer businesses in Our Town will show how we've been dealing with the depressed economy. The most recent business directory includes THE NEARLY NEW SHOP, SECOND HAND ROSES, ANTIQUE ALLEY, and a store called NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL.

Seems you can't buy anything new here, today. It's used clothes and used cars, used furniture and used books. Even some of the restaurants are specializing in left-overs. Three families have taken up permanent residence in the Salvation Army drop box.

One block of Depot Town has a row of shops which includes places called EVERYTHING NICE, EVERYTHING PRETTY GOOD, and another down-priced version named EVERYTHING NOT TOO NICE BUT O.K. IF YOU'RE JUST STEPPING OUT OF THE HOUSE FOR A MINUTE. Across the street you'll find STUFF & SUCH, SUGAR & SPICE and PUPPY DOGS' TAILS. That's what our commercial shopping district is made of.

We went to a party last week (in a recently rehabilitated historic house, of course) and I felt very much at-home when I realized that everybody there was wearing the clothes I had received for Christmas ten years ago. I had dropped them off at the NOW AND THEN RESALE SHOP which is between REMNANT CITY and UNCLAIMED GOODS AND BADS. Next week will see the grand openings of still more creative approaches at BESSIE'S BOUTIQUE AND HIGH FASHION USED CLOTHING EMPORIUM, YE OLDE HAND-ME-DOWN SHOPPE, and the OLDE-BUT-GOODE RECYCLED CYCLE SHOP. Many of these will be housed under the same roof at the CHEAP-TOWN BARGAIN-CITY DISCO-DISCOUNT CENTER out on the freeway.

One of our favorite stores is VINTAGE PASSION, which is not the senior citizen massage parlor the name implies, but a jewel box of yesterday's personal decoration. Jewelry is always popular, even if it's used jewelry. If they're not selling it, they're buying it. We also stopped in at JUNQUE JEWELRY, the OLD GOLD BOOSTER BARN, and RHINESTONE VALLEY only to learn a quick lesson: all that glitters is not good. While perusing THE FAMILY JEWELS, I looked for a new second hand for my watch and all they had was second-hand watches.

The area's antique establishments have proven that the local historic district is, indeed, the attic of the mid-west and that just about everybody is as interested as your grandfather was in what your grandma used to have. Today, the city's only department store, THE GIANT FLEA MARKET, is featuring a Hallmark used gift shop and they're calling it CRAP AND WRAP.

Yes, times are tough. My own family couldn't afford a new car this year, so, when we were applying for a loan at a local bank to pay our gas heating bill, we tacked on enough to purchase a new spare tire cover to hang on the rear of our all-terrain motor-home camper-wagon. It's personalized and says, "The Smiths: Art, Sarah, Amy, Fred, Art Jr., Melody, Amber, Poopsie and Tag." This is all superimposed over a scene of two wild geese flying over the twin towers of the first Presbyterian Church and done up in reflectorized metallic tape. Under crossed American Flags it says, "Ypsilanti, GARAGE SALE CITY - Love it or Leave It!"

